Separatist movement in Manipur

2392. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the facts which lead to the separatist movement of Manipur extremistouths from India;

(b) whether the agreements made between the then Central Government and Maharaja of Manipur under the merger agreement have been fulfilled; and

(c) if so, state the actual facts that have been fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have fulfilled all its obligations under the Manipur Merger Agreement within the Constitutional framework. The privy purse was, however, abolished by an Act of Parliament in 1971.

Increase in train robberies

2393. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 821, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 4th March, 1999 and state:

(a) whether cases of train robberies have been increasing and the RPF have totally failed to protect the travellers; and

(b) if so, the details of such incidents during the past one year and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) According to available information, there were 254 cases of robbery in trains during 1998 as compared with 178 such cases during the preceding year.

The registration, investigation, detection and prevention of crimes in running trains is the responsibility of the Government Railway Police (GRP), which functions under the control of the respective State Governments. The Central Government has been advising the State Governments, from time to time, to take necessary measures to ensure the safety of passengers and their belongings during train journeys. The measures suggested by the Central Government include, inter alia, the need for regular meetings between the GRP and the Railway Protection Force (RPF), posting of mobile police force in running trains, improvement in coordination between the police escort and the railway staff, removal of unauthorised hawkers, urchins and other undesirable elements, etc.

Ford Foundation grants for organisations in India

2394. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ford Foundation gives grants to organisations and individuals in India; and

(b) if so, the names and addresses of recipients of such grants, alongwith the purpose and the amounts of grant, during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) The Ford Foundation extends grant assistance mainly to non-governmental organisations, research institutions, Government agencies and Universities in the areas of agriculture and rural development, health and population, planning and management, education and culture etc.

(b) The details are given in the Annnexure. (*See* Appendix 186, Annexure No. 38).

Appointment of Area Welfare Officers

2395. SHRI DEBABRATA BISWAS: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointment of Area Welfare Officers is not made in time;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether facilities provided to Area Welfare Officers are sufficient according to the responsibilities they are supposed to share; if not, the reasons therefor and what additional facilities including reimbursement of charges incurred by them, are proposed to be provided in the near future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) There is no laid down time schedule for appointment of Area Welfare Officers. However, they are appointed on honorary and voluntary basis generally for a term of two years.

(c) The facilities provided to the Area Welfare Officers include inter alia use of office stationary and service stamps, permission to